

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 M-03 A-01 SY-07 AF-10

NIC-01 /124 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ EE: EHURWITZ: MW

4-12-73 EXT 23191

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

EUR/ EE - MR. BAKER

NEA - MR. KORN (SUBSTANCE)

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O 122326 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068818

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US, IS

SUBJECT: CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON

REF: A. SOFIA'S 403

B. SOFIA'S 386

1. IN VIEW OF THEIR SCURRILOUS NATURE AND DANGER THAT THEY WILL INCITE VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS, DEPT REGARDS CHARGES OF TYPE REPEATED BY NARODNA ARMIYA ARTICLE WITH EXTREME SERIOUSNESS.

2. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE RAISE THIS ARTICLE ASAP WITH HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL IN MFA AND STATE THAT USG HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED CHARGE THAT EMBASSY BEIRUT, OR ANY AGENCY OF USG, WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN OR CONNECTED WITH APRIL 9 ISRAELI RAID, OR THAT ANY ISRAELI PERSONNEL TOOK REFUGE IN EMBASSY BEIRUT. THESE FALSE AND SCURRILOUS CHARGES BEING MADE BY
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CERTAIN ARAB MEDIA WITH INTENTION OF INFLAMING ARAB PUBLIC AGAINST USG AND AMERICAN CITIZENS. REPETITION IN OFFICIAL BULGARIAN MEDIA OF THESE CHARGES IS TOTALLY UNWARRANTED AND IRRESPONSIBLE AND RAISES QUESTION OF EXTENT TO WHICH GOB INTERESTED, AS IT CLAIMS, IN IMPROVING US- GOB RELATIONS. YOU SHOULD REQUEST GOB TO TAKE STEPS TO INSURE THIS TYPE OF ARTICLE NOT REPEATED ELSEWHERE IN BULGARIAN MEDIA.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER APPEARANCE OF ARTICLE ACCENTUATES THE SECURITY PROBLEM TO WHICH YOU REFERRED IN REFTEL B. SINCE THIS PROBLEM EVIDENTLY CONCERNS OTHER MISSIONS IN SOFIA, YOU MAY WISH TO EXPLORE PURSUING IT THROUGH JOINT APPROACH OF WESTERN MISSIONS EITHER DIRECTLY TO MFA OR THROUGH DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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